

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

September 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 15th at the Urban Youth Academy, Roselawn Sports Complex, 2026 Seymour Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45237 with the following Commissioners present: Messrs. O'Callaghan, Nelms, Budig and Mme. Denno. Staff in attendance: Mmes., Arszman, Simmons, Finnell, Watson, Schirmann, Lemmons, Hanks, Re, Hanson and Messrs. Heyl, Pacella, Richards, Gerth, Boyer and Jones.

President Dawn Denno called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Denno stated that the first order of business was to swear in the new Commissioner – Mr. Pat O'Callaghan, who was appointed by Mayor John Cranley. Doris Simmons came forward to administer the Oath of Office and Mr. O'Callaghan officially became a member of the Board of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Mr. O'Callaghan stated that he looks forward to working with the Commission and took his seat at the table. The official meeting began.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Urban Youth Academy

Charley Frank, from the Reds Community Fund, discussed the Urban Youth Academy and what it means to the Community and the strong partnership that has been built between the Reds and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Mr. Frank said that they were very happy with the leadership at CRC with Chris Biggam and now with Steve Pacella and Lois Finnell and that they have developed a strong collaboration on many projects. The Urban Youth Academy is considered the best in its class. Former Red's great, Joe Morgan, said he would help only if it was going to be the best one and it is.

Fall and Winter are the busiest stretch of the year for them. Everything that goes on at the Academy is free of charge. They take pride in the educational process. They have a coaching certification process. Two high schools are currently playing their ball games there – Walnut Hills and Purcell Marion.

They are hoping that the next big event will be the RBI World Series next August. They are working with Major League Baseball for that. The Urban Youth Academy is a model for other Academies around the country.

Steve Pacella said that there is no better example of what a great partnership can be than what they have with the Cincinnati Reds and the Reds Community Fund. Mr. Nelms said that the Cincinnati Reds and the Reds Community Fund are great organizations from top to bottom. He asked how many other Urban Youth Academies there were. Mr. Frank answered that there were currently seven, but that San Francisco was next. Other cities have come here to look at ours. Hopefully they can connect with the urban core.

At this time Mr. Pacella said that CRC was grateful for the partnership that we had with the Reds and the Reds Community Fund on so many projects this past summer and as a small way of saying thanks, he played a video called “Thanks for an All-Star Summer” and then presented a DVD to Charley Frank.

MINUTES

Mr. Budig moved to approve the minutes of the August 18th, 2015 regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission. Mr. Nelms seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE - None at this meeting

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Margie Hanson - NJTL

Steve Pacella and Dianne Schirmann recognized Margie Hanson for her work with the National Junior Tennis Learning (NJTL) program for the past nine years.

Dina Hanks & Staff

Mr. Pacella recognized Dina Hanks and her staff for their hard work on the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame that was held at the Hyatt Regency. It's been running for close to 50 years. Dr. Odell Owens was the speaker.

Sandy Lemons & the Price Hill Staff

Mr. Pacella recognized Sandy Lemons and the Price Hill support staff who worked on the Tomato Blast event. It was a very fun event.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CRC Director Position Update

Mr. Pacella explained that they were pulling together a committee to meet with an Executive Search Firm that has been hired to recruit additional candidates for the Director position.

Special Events Calendar

Mr. Pacella discussed the upcoming events for Fall highlighting the Teen Social event at Scallywag Tag, the All Staff meeting on October 26 and the Teen Hip Hop Social at Oakley in December.

Recreation Extended Hours

Mr. Pacella discussed the 8-week pilot program for Saturday hours from 12-5 at 7 targeted centers. The results after 5 weeks were given to PG Sittenfeld's office. Each center averaged 30 youth or teens that took advantage of the center. The question now is what to do at the end of the funding? They are trying to get the funding extended. Ms. Denno asked about stress on the staff. Mr. Pacella answered that they are using part time staff mainly. Mr. Nelms stated that this creates an opportunity for volunteering. Mr. Pacella said that they

are laying the groundwork for the budget to continue the program. Mr. Nelms said that he will personally recruit 10 volunteers, including himself, to volunteer to help with programming.

Photo Montages

Mr. Pacella displayed the photo montages for this month including the Tomato Blast, NFL Flag at Paul Brown Stadium, the Senior Hall of Fame, NABT Men's Regional Baseball Tournament, Spoon's Boys & Girls Summer Basketball Camp and NJTL Tennis.

Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) Update

Steve Gerth said that the Diversity Advisory Council met last month and appointed Daryl Harris as Chair and Gary Price as Vice-Chair. The Transfer Request Policy is in place. All full time staff received Cultural Competency Training.

Teen Social Events

Steve Gerth is working on the upcoming Teen Social events. The first one is Friday, October 2 at Scallywag Tag. In November, there will be a Girls only event to the Xavier Girls basketball game.

Center Safety Concerns

Mr. Pacella discussed some safety concerns staff has been having because of the rise in gun violence near a few of our centers. They are making security upgrades to the Hirsch Recreation Center. Mr. Nelms suggested the possibility of making those centers a police sub-station. Mr. Pacella answered that the new camera systems that are being put in will help police. Ms. Denno said that security is a top concern.

2015 Aquatic Season Update

Mr. Pacella stated that he had emailed a copy of the 2015 Aquatic Season statistics to the Commission. Report was received for filing.

2015 Accreditation

Mr. Pacella announced that CRC has officially been re-accredited for 2015. Our next re-accreditation is due in 2020.

YOUTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

Mr. Walker stated that in reviewing the program offering for teens and listening to their feedback, he felt there was a lack of an Education component. Mr. Nelms said that we need more teen programs at our centers.

PLANNING & ENGINEERING

Capital Projects Update

Dan Jones gave the highlights from the Capital Projects Update report. The highlights include:

- Oakley Pool – demolition is almost finished
- Neumann sewer is finished
- Ryan Ballfields project is finished
- Pleasant Ridge roof is being replaced.
- Oakley Recreation Center – will start in January

Mr. Nelms asked if Evans was used very much. Mr. Pacella answered that it was a project with the Reds Community Fund.

OLD BUSINESS – None at this meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Council on Aging Grant Application

Lois Finnell explained that in the past the Council on Aging grant money that the CRC received had included money for delivering meals for seniors. The trend now for Seniors is more toward fitness and wellness and CRC feels that this is more in line with our mission. CRC feels that delivering meals to seniors is more of a social service agency mission. CRC is hoping that CHMA will apply to take over this responsibility. This decision will impact 3 sites, 15-30 seniors at each facility.

Mr. Nelms moved to approve the application for and acceptance of a streamlined Council on Aging grant. Mr. O'Callaghan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Sunset Players Proposal

John Wesseling, from Sunset Players, discussed an event that they will be holding at the Dunham Arts Building. There will be a chili cook off with live music. They have a liquor license and intend to serve beer. This event will help raise funds for the upkeep of the building. The date is November 7th. Mr. Nelms moved to approve the event and the liquor license application. Mr. Budig seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ziegler Park Update

As the process for the renovation of Ziegler Park has evolved, CRC staff has come to the conclusion that they should stick to the things that they do best and perhaps turn over the operation of the planned new pool to 3CDC. Mr. Budig asked if Mr. Pacella expected there to be a higher level of participation there after all the changes are made. Mr. Pacella answered that the neighborhood is changing and it is a \$30 million dollar project. Right now our capital requirement is \$0.

Ministries Horse Course

Mr. Pacella explained that there is land at 1655 Ross Ave in Price Hill that is owned by CRC, that BLOC Ministries would like to turn into a Horse Course, which would provide free riding lessons for CRC child members. Report received for filing.

Mr. Pacella said that we inherited the land from CPS. It would be the same arrangement that we have with the Urban Youth Baseball Academy. There is total access for our kids. Mr. Budig stated that he thought that this was a great idea. Mr. Budig asked if the insurance was covered by the City. Mr. Pacella answered that there is a large legal component to this and this will be a step by step process. Ms. Denno asked if they would just be leasing the land. Mr. Pacella answered that right now it is just conceptual.

North Fairmount Recreation Site

In September of 2014, the Commission approved the sale of a parking lot adjacent to their facility at 1759 Carll Street with the stipulation that the neighborhood community council supported this sale. The property owner has not allowed the process to continue. Mr. Pacella asked the Commission to remove that stipulation so that the process can continue.

Mr. O'Callaghan moved to approve the sale of the land adjacent to the CRC facility at 1759 Carll St without stipulations. Mr. Budig seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Executive Compensation

Ms. Denno explained that it has been one year since Steve Pacella stepped in as Interim Director. At that time he received a small increase with the understanding that it would be for 90 days while they searched for a new Director. Ms. Denno added that since this would be public information anyway, she wanted to share that she feels that Steve Pacella has gone way above and beyond what he was expected to do. She would like to increase his salary to the

Director level and back it up for 6 months. The number provided to her by Georgette Kelly of Central Human Resources is \$125,963.53.

Mr. Budig said that he never had a doubt that the department would be well tended when Steve Pacella was named Interim Director. He enthusiastically moved to increase Steve Pacella's salary to \$125,963.53 with back pay of six months. Ms. Denno seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, 2015 at the CRC Main Office, 805 Central Ave., Suite 800, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Mr. Budig moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Callaghan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Dawn Denno, President

Steve Pacella, Interim Director

/ba

Minutes prepared by Bunny Arszman